

Claims

I claim:

1. A rigid structure comprised of two halves, each having a scalloped inner face such that when the two halves are mated, parallel and spaced apertures are formed to hold a series of tubes in an aligned and fixed spaced relationship, the tubes being fitted with tube shields located adjacent the two halves, and wherein the two halves are sized to overlap portions of the tube shields thereby covering any gaps therebetween.
2. The rigid structure according to claim 1, in which the scalloped inner face is formed with a central portion extending toward the tubes, and longitudinal end portions overlapping the tube shields.
3. The rigid structure according to claim 1, including connecting means between at least some of the spaced apertures to clamp the two halves around the tubes and adjacent portions of the tube shields.
4. The rigid structure according to claim 1, in which the tube shields are welded to each of the two halves.
5. The rigid structure according to claim 1, in which a retainer shield covers the front end of the two halves, and the retainer shield is sized to overlap the adjacent portions of the tube shields.
6. The rigid structure according to claim 5, in which the retainer shield is welded to each of the two halves.

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7. In combination, a row of vertical lengths of essentially parallel tubes having a side periodically subjected to the action of a stream of blowing fluid cleaning medium, spaced upper and lower tube shields mounted on said side of each tube, a rigid structure disposed between the upper and lower tube shields and being comprised of two halves positioned on opposite sides of the tube row, each half having an inner face shaped with semicircular grooves such that when the two halves are mated, parallel and spaced apertures are formed to hold the tubes in an aligned and fixed spaced relationship, and wherein the two halves are sized to overlap adjacent portions of the tube shields thereby covering any gaps exposing said side of each tube to the action of the fluid cleaning medium.

8. The combination according to claim 7, in which the inner face is formed with a central portion extending toward the tubes, and longitudinal end portions overlapping the tube shields.

9. The combination according to claim 7, including connecting means between at least some of the spaced apertures to clamp the two halves around the tubes and adjacent portions of the tube shields.

10. The combination according to claim 7, in which the tube shields are welded to each of the two halves.

11. The combination according to claim 7, in which a retainer shield covers the front end of the two halves, and the retainer shield is sized to overlap the adjacent portions of the tube shields.

12. The combination according to claim 11, in which the retainer shield is welded to each of the two halves.